



NEW HAMPSHIRE DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

State of New Hampshire, Department of Cultural Affairs  
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14 March 1995

Mr. Eric P. Newman  
President  
Mercantile Money Museum  
Mercantile Tower  
Seventh Street and Washington Avenue  
St. Louis, Missouri, 63101

Dear Mr. Newman:

You may have heard that the State of New Hampshire recently purchased two engraved copper plates for printing the face sides of bills of credit issued by the Province of New Hampshire in 1742, with subsequent emissions from the same plates in 1743 and 1744/5.

The State acquired these two plates at auction at Phillips Gallery in London. We have no idea how or when the plates were taken to England.

Your book, *The Early Paper Money of America*, has been of tremendous help to us as we have tried to learn the background and importance of these plates.

We have noticed that you stated on page 206 of your book that "engraved backs were on the four highest denominations and contained the equivalents of four Old Tenor for one New Tenor. . . . The back plate for the four highest denominations still exists." You illustrate a counterfeit of one back plate for an £8 O.T. (40/ N.T.) note on page 207.

Now that the State of New Hampshire has acquired the two face plates from an unexpected source in London, I am wondering whether you could tell us how it is known that the back plate exists? Do you have information on the design of the cartouches for the back designs of the other three highest denominations, or is the counterfeit £8 note the only surviving rendition of the back design for a bill in the series?

We are aware of the existence of engraved plates for the New Hampshire emission of 1737 (redated in 1740), which are owned by the New Hampshire Historical Society, a private organization. Do your files suggest the survival of other plates for New Hampshire bills of credit?

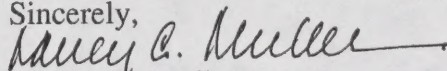


Muller to Newman, 14 March 1995, page 2.

We are planning to exhibit the newly-acquired plates in the New Hampshire State House, and would be most grateful for any information you care to share with us about either the face plates or the back plate for the series. Incidentally, research in our state archives indicates that these plates were engraved and printed for the Province of New Hampshire by the engraver and ornamentalist Thomas Johnston of Boston.

With our deepest thanks for any information you care to share with us,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Nancy C. Muller", followed by a horizontal line.

Nancy C. Muller

Director and State Historic  
Preservation Officer



